

## Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SY-10 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20

OMB-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 USSS-00 /183 W  
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R 040835Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7696

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBWLSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PK

SUBJECT: BALUCHISTAN: ACHAKZAI ASSASSINATION-TWO VIEWS

REF: KARACHI 2489

BEGIN SUMMARY: DECEMBER 3 IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH  
MIR HAJI SIR AHMED YAR KHAN, THE KHAN OF KALAT, AND  
BALUCHISTAN PPP SENATOR MIR NABI BUX ZEHRI, CONGEN  
OFFICER SOUGHT INITIAL REACTION OF THESE TWO BALUCHI TAN  
FIGURES TO DECEMBER 2 ASSASSINATION OF ABDUL SAMAD KHAN  
ACHAKZAI. SINCE NEITHER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS PERSONALLY  
IN QUETTA AT TIME OF INCIDENT, THEIR REACTIONS CAN ONLY  
BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY AND PERHAPS MORE LIKELY BASED  
ON THEIR PERSONAL POLITICAL PREDISPOSITION THAN ACCESS  
TO HARD INFORMATION. HOWEVER, BOTH THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE  
STRONG, CONTINUING, PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE POLITICS  
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OF BALUCHISTAN. THE KHAN OF KALAT UNEQUIVOCALLY NAMED GOVERNOR BUGTI AS THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACHAKZAI'S DEATH. SENATOR ZEHRI STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE SLAYING WAS THE WORK OF AN UNDERGROUND GROUP OF YOUNG, CONFIRMED COOPERATING BALUCH AND PATHAN NATIONALISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. KHAN OF KALAT'S COMMENTS: KHAN EXPRESSED APPARENT GENUINE SHOCK AND DISTAST AT ACHAKZAI'S SLAYING. IN A DECEMBER 1 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HIS NIECE IN QUETTA, THE WIFE OF PPP PROVINCIAL MINISTER YUSUF ALI MAGSI, KHAN HAS BEEN TOLD GUILTY PARTY WAS MAN WITH

MOUSTACHE AND VEST, WHICH MEANT TO HIM NONE OTHER THAN GOVERNOR BUGTI. THE KHAN COULD ADDUCE NO RATIONALE FOR SLAYING AND HEDGED HIS PREDICTION WHETHER SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE WOULD RESULT. ON BALANCE, HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT VIOLENCE WOULD BE GENERATED BY INCIDENT BUT THAT IT WOULD TAKE 3-4 DAYS TO ESTABLISH IF THIS WERE TRUE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT THAT INCIDENT MIGHT PASS OVER WITH MINIMAL DISORDERS.

2. NABI BUX ZEHRI'S THOUGHTS: PPP SENATOR ZEHRI WAS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT ACHAKZAI'S UNHAPPY FATE. HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF FELT ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL SUPPORT OF PAKISTAN (BHUTTO) IN BALUCHISTAN- HE PROVIDED NO DEFINITE IDENTIFICATION, BUT SAID THAT HE THOUGHT SLAYING WAS CARRIED OUT BY UNDERGROUND GROUP OF YOUNG COOPERATING BALUCH-PATHAN EXTREMISTS. ZEHRI WAS OF OPINION THAT INCIDENT WAS LIKELY TO RADICALLY ALTER PROCESS OF SEEKING SETTLEMENT OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO ZEHRI, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT ON HIS RETURN FROM KUWAIT WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT DETERMINING INFLUENCE ON THE IMPACT OF THIS EVENT ON PROVINCE'S POLITICS.

3. COMMENT: BOTH ZEHRI AND KHAN OF KALAT REGRETTED THAT ACHAKTXI HAD MET VIOLENT END. WHILE VIOLENCE IS NOTHING NEW TO BALUCHISTAN THEIR REACTION OF DISTASTE MAY REFLECT CONCERN THAT RECOGNIZED PUBLIC FIGURES, ONCE RELATIVELY PROTECTED MANIPULATORS, MAY NOW HAVE BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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FAIR GAME IN POLITICAL STRUGGLE. WHILE BOTH ADMITTED THIS INCIDENT COULD SET PROVINCE'S PATHANS AGAINST THE BALUCH, NEITHER SEEMED TO BELIEVE OR BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT IT WAS DELIBERATE PROVOCATION TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A CONFRONTATION ON TOP OF ALREADY VIOLENT BALUCH-GOVERNMENT CONFRONTATION. THE VARIANCE OF THEIR VIEWS IS PERHAPS REFLECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT MANY ARE GOING TO INTERPRET ACHAKZAI'S DEATH IN A MANNER THAT CONFORMS TO THEIR PERSONAL POLITI-

CAL PREDISPOSITIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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